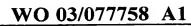
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1998)

International application No.

PCT/US03/07996

| A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(7): A61B 5/05. US CL: 600/407;382/130 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|---|-----------------------|--|
| B. FIELDS SEARCHED | | | | | | |
| Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S.: 600/407,441,454;382/130,128 | | | | | | |
| Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched | | | | | | |
| Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) | | | | | | |
| C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | | | | |
| | gory * | Citation of document, with indication, where a | | | Relevant to claim No. | |
| | ^ ∤u | S 6,283,918 B1 (Kanda et al.) 04 September 2001 | (04.09.200 | 01), entire document | 1-17 | |
| | | | · | | to proper to | |
| | | • | | | | |
| Ш | Further do | cuments are listed in the continuation of Box C. | | See patent family annex. | | |
| * | Specia | l categories of cited documents: | "T" | later document published after the inter date and not in conflict with the applica- | | |
| "A" | document defi- of particular n | ning the general state of the art which is not considered to be elevance | | principle or theory underlying the inven | | |
| -E- | | tion or patent published on or after the international filing date | -x- | document of particular relevance; the c considered novel or cannot be considered. | | |
| -L- | document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) | | -Y- | when the document is taken alone document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step_when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination | | |
| .0. | document refe | rring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means | | being obvious to a person skilled in the | art | |
| Ъ | document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed | | | document member of the same patent f | amily | |
| Date of the actual completion of the international search | | | | Date of gailing of the international search report | | |
| 13 June 2003 (13.06.2003) | | | | | | |
| Name and mailing address of the ISA/US | | | Authorized officer | | | |
| Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents | | | Marvin Lateef Aigur / Anget | | | |
| P.O. Box 1450 | | | Marvin Lateef Signe from Telephone No. (703) 308-0858 | | | |
| Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703)305-3230 | | | \mathcal{T} | | | |





For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.